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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/890,844	01/04/2002	Takeshi Kanai	6715/63310	7981

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EXAMINER

CUNNINGHAM, GREGORY F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2676

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/890,844

Applicant(s)

KANAI ET AL.

Examiner

Greg Cunningham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications of application filed 11/17/2004.
2. The disposition of the claims is as follows: claims 1-52 are pending in the application.
Claims 1, 6, 12, 15, 18-20, 29, 37 and 45 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. In view of amended independent claims, 101 rejections are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. In view of amended independent claims, 112 rejections are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 6, 12, 15, 18-20, 29, 37 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Mastering Excel 97, hereinafter Excel, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Excel, and further in view of Official Notice.

A1. Excel discloses claim 1, “An information processing method for processing a display of a plurality of objects within an electronic structured document to allow a command text to be used for both vertically-arrayed text and horizontally-arrayed text, the method comprising the steps

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analyzing drawing information including information of at least one object that can be displayed [Excel, “Your Text Here”] and layout designating information for specifying a relative position direction with respect to a direction of arranging the object within the electronic structured document [Excel will place the WordArt object on the worksheet, where you can move, resize, and format it just like any other object.]; determining a relative placing position of the object in a desired drawing area of the electronic structured document based on layout definition information corresponding to the layout designating information obtained by the analysis of the drawing information [Excel will place the WordArt object on the worksheet, where you can move, resize, and format it just like any other object.]; generating real object display position information [wysiwyg] corresponding to the relative placing position of the object responsive to the arranging direction; and displaying the object within the electronic structured document, wherein the relative position direction is one of vertical and horizontal” on [pages 347-348] as [detailed].

Wherein Edit WordArt Text “Your Text Here” is used to demonstrate both horizontal placement and vertical placement. Vertical placement is accomplished via the bottom WordArt toolbar shown in figure on page 348, third tool from the left, shown as:

This tool takes the existing text object and formats it into a vertical position.

(Examiner’s notes:

- a. Claim is silent on who or what is performing the analyzing.)
- b. Claim is also silent on how “a command text” is to be used or even if “command text” is an operative ‘object of an operation’ or an operator itself such as rotation or vertical alignment.

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c. “Command text” is part of preamble and lacks patentable weight since it is not further delineated in claim and therefore does not lend clear patentable limitation to claim.

d. Claim is silent on who or what is performing the determining and generating; is this automated, or via user input?)

A2. In the event “command text” had patentable weight and acts as an operator, the alternate 103, with Official Notice wherein GUI represents command text operations:

Excel discloses claim 1, as detailed supra. However Excel does not appear to disclose “to allow a command text to be used for both vertically-arrayed text and horizontally arrayed text”.

However, Official notice is taken that the art is replete with command text realignment operators, DOS commands (type, string, linefeed, carriage return) that perform both vertically-arrayed text and horizontally-arrayed text. Also GUI (graphical-user-interface) acts as an equivalent to “text commands” and therefore also corresponds to “text commands”.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply [horizontal and vertical text placement] disclosed by Excel in combination with [GUI or text commands] disclosed by Official Notice, and motivated to combine the teachings because it would GUI corresponds to prior text commands.

B. Per independent claims 6 and 18, these are directed to an apparatus and medium, respectively, for performing the method of independent claim 1, and therefore are rejected to independent claim 1.

C. Excel and Official Notice disclose claim 12, “An information processing method for processing a display of a plurality of objects within an electronic structured document to allow a

command text to be used for both vertically-arrayed text and horizontally-arrayed text, the method comprising the steps of: generating object information of at least one object that can be displayed; generating layout designating information specifying a relative position direction with respect to an arranging direction of the object; generating drawing information at least including the object information and the layout designating information; and displaying the object within the electronic structured document, wherein the relative position direction is one of vertical and horizontal” supra for claim 1 in A1 and A2.

D. Per independent claims 15 and 19, these are directed to an apparatus and medium, respectively, for performing the method of independent claim 12, and therefore are rejected to independent claim 12.

E. Excel and Official Notice disclose claim 20, “An information processing method for processing a display of a plurality of objects within an electronic structured document to allow a command text to be used for both vertically-arrayed text and horizontally-arrayed text, the method comprising the steps of: analyzing drawing information at least including information containing at least one object that can be displayed, information pertinent to a size of the object in a line direction and in a line feed direction, and information pertinent to a layout; acquiring coordinate information pertinent to a display start position of the object in a drawing area of the electronic structured document based on a result of the analysis; converting the coordinate information pertinent to the display start position based on the layout-related information obtained by the result of the analysis; converting the coordinate information pertinent to the converted display start position into object drawing coordinate information on the drawing area; and displaying the object within the electronic structured document, wherein the information

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pertinent to a layout includes a relative position direction; and the relative position direction is one of vertical and horizontal” supra for claim 1 in A1 and A2. Wherein “line direction” and “line feed directing” correspond to [horizontal and vertical direction] respectively; and [Excel’s row and column] corresponds to “coordinate information pertinent to a display start position”.

F. Per independent claims 29, 37 and 45, these are directed to a method, apparatus and apparatus, respectively, for performing the method of independent claim 20, and therefore are rejected to independent claim 20. Wherein [WordArt Gallery, from stored library Gallery] corresponds to “storage means”; and [Edit WordArt] corresponds to “signal processing means for analyzing the drawing information read out from the storage means”.

G. Excel discloses claim 2, “The information processing method according to claim 1, wherein the layout definition information includes information indicating a size of the drawing area; and the drawing area and the relative placing position of the object in the drawing area are converted into an object display position” supra for claim 1. Wherein [your can apply appropriate text formatting (such as font style and size), ...where you can move, resize, and format] corresponds to “information indicating a size of the drawing area; and the drawing area and the relative placing position of the object in the drawing area”.

H. Per dependent claims 7, 13 and 16, these are directed to an apparatus, method and apparatus, respectively, for performing the method of dependent claim 2, and therefore are rejected to dependent claim 2.

J. Excel discloses claim 3, “The information processing method according to claim 1, wherein the object is displayed based on the real object display position” supra for claim 1.

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Wherein [Excel will place the WordArt object on the worksheet, where you can move, resize, and format] corresponds to “the object is displayed based on the real object display position”.

K. Per dependent claim 8, this is directed to an apparatus, for performing the method of dependent claim 3, and therefore is rejected to dependent claim 3.

L. Excel discloses claim 4, “The information processing method according to claim 1, wherein the relative placing position of the object is updated in response to a request for changing the drawing direction of the object; and the updated relative placing position of the object is converted to an object display position” supra for claim 1. Wherein Edit WordArt Text “Your Text Here” is used to demonstrate both horizontal placement and vertical placement. Vertical placement is accomplished via the bottom WordArt toolbar shown in figure on page 348, third tool from the left, shown as:

This tool takes the existing text object and formats it into a vertical position.

M. Per dependent claim 9 this is directed to an apparatus, for performing the method of dependent claim 4, and therefore is rejected to dependent claim 4.

N. Excel discloses claim 5, “The information processing method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of objects comprises a first object and a second object; a relative placing position of the first object is determined based on a layout definition information of ((a)) the first object; and a relative placing position of the second object is determined responsive to the determined position of the first object relative placing” supra for claim 1. Wherein first and second objects correspond to alphanumeric characters and placement of the second character object is determined after placement of the first character object and correspondingly repositioned realignment in the vertical direction.

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P. Per dependent claim 11 this is directed to an apparatus, for performing the method of dependent claim 5, and therefore is rejected to dependent claim 5.

Q. Excel discloses claim 10, "The information processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising means for inputting a request for changing the drawing direction of the object" supra for claim 1 (6). Wherein vertical placement is accomplished via the bottom WordArt toolbar shown in figure on page 348, third tool from the left, shown supra for claim 1. This tool takes the existing text object and formats it into a vertical position and corresponds to "means for inputting a request for changing the drawing direction of the object".

R. Excel discloses claim 14, "The information processing method according to claim 12, wherein the drawing information is distributed" supra for claim 12 and furthermore in Excel on page 325 at Alignment vs. Distribution.

S. Excel discloses claim 21, "The information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the drawing information further includes the information pertinent to a size of the drawing area in the line direction and in the line feed direction; and the coordinate information pertinent to the display start position is converted into the object drawing coordinate information in the drawing area based on the information pertinent to the sizes in the line direction and in the line feed direction of the drawing area" supra for claims 1 and 20.

T. Excel discloses claim 22, "The information processing method according to claim 21, wherein when the object is horizontally written the object drawing coordinate information is used" supra for claims 20 and 21.

U. Excel discloses claim 23, "The information processing method according to claim 21, wherein when the object is vertically written a difference obtained on subtracting a coordinate

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value in the line direction of the object drawing coordinate information from the size in the line feed direction of the drawing area as the coordinate value in the line direction of the object drawing coordinate information” supra for claims 20 and 21. Wherein “line direction” and “line feed directing” correspond to [horizontal and vertical direction] respectively; and [Excel’s row and column] corresponds to “coordinate information pertinent to a display start position” and subtracting is inherent to positioning according to worksheet’s rows and columns.

V. Excel discloses claim 24, “The information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the object is represented on display means based on the object drawing coordinate information” supra for claims 20 and 22.

W. Excel discloses claim 25, “The information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of objects comprises a first object and a second object; and when it is verified that the second object is to be displayed on the first object the drawing start coordinate information of the second object is generated based on the information pertinent to the size of the first object in the line direction and in the line feed direction and on the layout-related information” supra for claims 20. Wherein first and second objects correspond to alphanumeric characters and placement of the second character object is determined after placement of the first character object and correspondingly repositioned realignment in the vertical direction.

X. Excel discloses claim 26, “The information processing method according to claim 25, wherein the second object is drawn one of upstream and downstream of the first object based on the drawing start coordinate information of the second object” supra for claims 20 and 25.

Wherein the upper or front side of the phrase or character corresponds to "upstream" side, and the lower side corresponds to "downstream" side.

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Y. Excel discloses claim 27, “The information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of objects further comprises at least one decorative object; and when it is verified that the decorative object is to be displayed on the object a drawing start coordinate information of the decorative object is generated based on the information pertinent to the size of the object in the line direction and in the 'line feed direction and on the layout related information” supra for claims 20 and 25. Wherein selecting from the WordArt Gallery members, each, corresponds to “decorative objects”.

Z. Excel discloses claim 28, “The information processing method according to claim 27, wherein the decorative object is drawn one of upstream and downstream of the object based on the drawing start coordinate information of the decorative object” supra for claims 27 and 26.

AA. Per dependent claims 30-36, 38-44 and 46-52, these are directed to a method, apparatus and apparatus, for performing the method of dependent claims 21-23 and 25-28, respectively, and therefore are rejected to dependent claims 21-23 and 25-28.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Responses

8. Responses to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. If applicant desires to fax a response, (703) 872-9306 may be used for formal communications.

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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Inquiries

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Greg Cunningham whose telephone number is (703) 308-6109.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Matthew Bella, can be reached on (703) 308-6829.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone
number is (703) 306-0377.

J.F. Cunningham, Examiner

gfc

January 31, 2005

Matthew C. Bella

**MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**